

MED. LIBRARY

BOROUGH OF



GILLINGHAM
(KENT).

REPORT

ON THE

Health of the Borough

OF

Gillingham, Kent,

For the
Year ending 31st December, 1925,

BY

W. A. MUIR, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital.

Medical Officer, Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

School Medical Officer.

GILLINGHAM:

A. GIBBS, 427, CANTERBURY STREET, GILLINGHAM, KENT.

1926.





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b2925534x>

BOROUGH OF



GILLINGHAM
(KENT).

REPORT

ON THE

Health of the Borough

OF

Gillingham, Kent,

For the

Year ending 31st December, 1925,

BY

W. A. MUIR, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital.

Medical Officer, Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

School Medical Officer.

GILLINGHAM:

A. GIBBS, 427, CANTERBURY STREET, GILLINGHAM, KENT.

1926.

INDEX.

	PAGE		PAGE
Ambulance Facilities ..	26	Milk (Mothers' and Children's)	
Ante-Natal Work ..	32	Order	33
Bakehouses	38, 40	Milk Supply	38, 39
Births	9	Milk (Special Designations)	
Birth Rate	9	Order, 1923	38
Cancer and Malignant Disease	14	Mortality, Analysis of ..	12
Cesspools	43	Neo-Natal Mortality ..	36
Child Welfare Centre ..	32	Non-Notifiable Infectious	
Clinics and Treatment Centres	25	Diseases	19
Common Lodging Houses	49	Notices, Preliminary and	
Dairies, Cowsheds and		Statutory	46
Milkshops	38	Notification of Births Act	31
Deaths	10	Nuisances	45
Death Rate	10	Nursing Arrangements ..	24
Deaths, Table showing		Offensive Trades	44
Causes of	13	Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	37
Disinfection, Methods of ..	26	Orthopædic Treatment ..	37
Diphtheria .. 17, 18, 28, 29		Other Food Preparing Places	38
Drainage	43	Pneumonia	19
Dysentery	19	Population	9
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	19	Premises Visited	45
Enteric Fever .. 18, 28, 29		Public Conveniences ..	43
Erysipelas	19	Public Health Act, 1925 ..	23
Factories and Workshops		Public Health (Prevention	
Acts	47	of Tuberculosis) Regu-	
Food and Drugs Act, Sale of	42	lations, 1925	23
Food Supply, Supervision of	38	Public Mortuary	44
Food Unsound, etc. ..	42	Puerperal Fever	37
Health Visitors, Work of ..	32	Rag Flock Act	44
Hospital Accommodation	24	Rainfall	52
Housing	48, 49, 50	Rats and Mice Destruction	
Houses Let in Lodgings ..	49	Act, 1919	44
Illegitimate Births and		Rent Restriction Act ..	49
Deaths	10, 36	Respiratory Diseases ..	14
Infant Feeding Methods of	33	Sanitary Administration ..	43
Infant Mortality	34, 36	Scarlet Fever .. 15, 16, 18, 28	
Infant Mortality, Diagrams of	35	Scavenging and Refuse	
Infectious Diseases, Admission		Disposal	44
of	28	Shops Acts	51
Infectious Diseases, Control of	14	Slaughterhouses	38, 41
Infectious Diseases, Seasonal		Smallpox	18
Incidence of	16	Staff	4
Infectious Diseases, Table		Statistical Summary ..	8
showing Age Groups, etc	15	Still Births	36
Influenza	14, 20	Tonsilitis	28
Institutional Provision, Un-		Trench Fever	19
married Mothers, etc.	26	Tuberculosis .. 20, 21, 22, 23	
Isolation Hospital .. 26, 28, 29, 30		Tuberculosis Tables, showing	
Laboratory Work .. 27, 38		Sex, Age, etc.	21
Legal Proceedings ..	46	Tuberculosis, Treatment of	22, 23
Licences	51	Vaccination	19
Local Regulations, Byelaws,		Venereal Disease ..	23, 24
etc.	51	Vermineous Persons, Cleans-	
Maternal Mortality ..	34	ing of	27
Maternity and Child Welfare	31	Vital Statistics	9
Maternity Home	34	Vital Statistics, Comparison of	11
Meat Regulations .. 40, 41		Ward Mortality	10
Members of Committees ..	3	Water	43
Midwives	25, 33	Water Closets	43

Health Committee, 1924-1925.

Composed of all the Members of the Council.

Chairman : ALDERMAN A. M. DAVENPORT.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, 1924-1925.

Composed of all the Members of the Council, and the following
co-opted Members :—

MR. S. HORE, J.P.

MRS. A. COVINGTON.

MR. H. GIBBS.

MRS. A. KIPPING.

MR. W. H. THORNTON, J.P.

MRS. HURWITZ.

MR. W. E. MOORHOUSE.

MRS. W. SMETHURST.

MRS. H. E. JONES.

MRS. B. WILLIAMS.

MISS E. DAVIES.

Chairman : COUNCILLOR F. A. CHAPPELL.

Closing Orders Sub-Committee, 1924-1925.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR.

COUNCILLOR A. C. EDMONDS.

ALDERMAN A. M. DAVENPORT.

COUNCILLOR R. D. EDDEN.

ALDERMAN H. HEPWORTH.

COUNCILLOR T. NYE.

ALDERMAN J. J. KNIGHT.

COUNCILLOR S. L. REDFORD.

COUNCILLOR G. C. SWAIN.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, Medical Superintendent of Isolation Hospital, Medical Officer Child Welfare Centre :

W. A. MUIR, M.D.(Glas.), Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

DAVID L. BALL, Cert. Royal San. Institute.

Bronze Medallist and Prizeman, City and Guilds, London.

Sanitary Inspectors :

JAMES ARNOLD.

*G. H. RIDGWAY, C.R.S.I.

Veterinary Surgeon (part-time) :

ELMER EBBETTS, M.R.C.V.S.

Health Visitors :

MRS. A. LEACH (C.B.M. Cert., Health Visitors' Cert.).

MISS R. HOPKINS (C.M.B. Cert.).

Matron of Isolation Hospital :

†MISS F. I. TAYLOR (C.M.B. Cert.).

Clerks :

J. F. CREIGHTON.

H. F. C. TAYLOR.

* Also Inspector under the Shops Act.

† General Trained Nurse.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
GILLINGHAM, KENT.

23rd April, 1925.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
the Borough of Gillingham, Kent.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Fourth Annual Report on the health of the Borough.

It is a "Survey Report" in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health and is intended to deal with the general advancement in public health work during the preceding five years. The Ministry lays down for a series of five years one Survey and four Ordinary Reports.

VITAL STATISTICS.

During the years 1921-1925 the total population is estimated to have increased by 2,780 persons. The birth-rate fell continuously during these years, reaching the record minimum of 16.6 in 1925. The death-rate has also fallen and it is interesting to note that 40 per cent. of all deaths now take place after sixty-five years of age. Deaths amongst infants are fewer but there is no reduction in the number dying during the first month of life. Also there is no reduction in the number of mothers dying in childbirth. Cancer is the cause of about 12 per cent. of all deaths and kills more persons than tuberculosis.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The closing down of the out-of-date isolation hospital and the arrangements made for the treatment of infectious cases in St. William's Hospital, Rochester, represent a distinct advance in the Public Health administration of the Borough. The Council is to be congratulated on getting their cases adequately housed without going to the enormous expense of building and furnishing a new hospital.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE WORK.

This continues to expand. The number of new cases attending the Centre rose from 279 in 1922 to 426 in 1925 and the total attendances from 3,258 to 8,036. The home visits of the Health

Visitors have also increased. There can be no doubt that the work carried on under the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee is to a large extent responsible for the fall in infantile mortality. The premises in Arden Street are unsuitable in many ways for a Child Welfare Centre but no other building is available. When and if new Council Offices are built, a portion should be set aside for this important branch of educational work.

HOUSING.

Full benefits for money spent by the Health Committee will not accrue so long as there is a shortage of houses with resultant overcrowding. During the years 1921-1925, 544 houses have been built, the largest number being 172 in 1925, but about 200 are required every year to provide for the annual increase in population and to permit the demolition of unfit houses. An acceleration in the speed with which houses are being provided is therefore urgently necessary, especially as the arrears of the war years have yet to be overtaken. As long as 10 to 15 per cent. of all houses are occupied by more than one family, conditions inimical to health must of necessity prevail.

FOOD INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION.

Your inspectors spend much of their time inspecting food and places where food is prepared, stored and exposed for sale. It is well recognised that kitchens of restaurants, fried fish shops and other like premises require continuous supervision if a reasonable degree of cleanliness is to be attained. Milkshops, butchers' shops, bakehouses, etc., likewise receive attention.

The public as consumers can do much towards the attainment of "clean food" by demanding it and by patronising only those who take trouble to protect their stock from contamination by dust, flies, etc. Confectioners, for example, who exhibit their wares inside glass cases should be patronised in preference to those who place them unprotected on the forecourt.

The object of the Public Health Department is to safeguard the health of the citizens of the Borough and this means not only to reduce death rates but to diminish sickness and invalidity as far as possible. Innumerable Acts of Parliament are on the Statute Book dealing with housing, food, drains, etc., but no individual can be made healthy by legislation.

Propaganda and teaching carried on at Child Welfare Centres and elsewhere are necessary for the stimulation and encouragement of the desire for health amongst the people. After all, health is of paramount importance not only to the individual in his domestic circle but also to the State economically, as the healthier the worker the greater the output and the less the cost of production. Public

Health expenditure, though it may not produce immediate and visible results is, nevertheless, gradually improving the health of the people and in the long run will prove a sound investment.

In conclusion, I wish to acknowledge the efficient service rendered by the members of the Staff in my Department and the co-operation and valuable assistance of my official colleagues. I thank you, Gentlemen, for your continued support in the administration of the Department.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. MUIR,

Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA AND STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1925.

Total Area in Acres (excluding Foreshore and Tidal Water)	.. .. .	4,988
Do. (including Foreshore and Tidal Water)	.. ..	7,291
Population (Registrar General, June, 1925)	.. ..	57,080
Density of Population per acre (1921 Census)	.. ..	10.9
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921 Census)	.. ..	10,859
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921 Census)		12,486
Birth Rate (Register General) per 1,000 of population	..	16.6
Death Rate (Registrar General) per 1,000 of population		10.2
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 births	.. ..	51.5
Phthisis Death Rate per 1,000 of population	.. ..	.6
Total Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 of population		.7
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 of population	.. ..	1.0
Zymotic Death Rate per 1,000 of population	.. ..	.2
Rateable Value (1924-1925)	.. .. .	£206,191
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (District Fund)		
1924-25	.. .. .	£755

In 1925-1926 the total Rates were 14s. 8d. in the £ (excluding Water Rate and charges).

Average weekly number of persons in receipt of outdoor relief during 1925	.. .. .	271
Amount paid in outdoor relief (1925)	 approx.	£3,680
Number of Gillingham persons admitted to Medway Hospital during 1925	.. .. .	170

The oldest part of the Borough is on the banks of the Medway, and the more modern on land rising by a gradual gradient to the level of the main London and Dover Road. Its aspect is North and East. The subsoil is largely composed of chalk which is responsible for the marked hardness of the water supply. The town depends for its existence upon the Dockyard, as there are practically no other industries of any kind except cement works. In the 1921 Census 2,895 males were classed as "metal workers," and 1,140 males as "shipwrights, etc."

On the south side the town stretches inland into typical rural country. Agricultural workers number about 300. Naval and Military pensioners at the 1921 Census numbered 238.

The Headquarters of the Corps of Royal Engineers, Chatham Naval Hospital, Chatham Naval Barracks and Chatham Dockyard are all within the boundaries of the Borough.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Summary for 1925 :—

		Total.	M.	F.		
Births	Legitimate	925	482	443	} Birth-rate	16.6
	Illegitimate.....	26	17	9		
Deaths	.....	501	250	251	Death-rate	10.2
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of					} from sepsis	1
child-birth .....							} other causes .....	2
Deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 births						51.5
Legitimate, 49.7. Illegitimate, 115.3.						
Deaths from Measles (all ages)						0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)						3
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)						5

POPULATION.

The following are the figures for the years 1921-1925 :

Year.	Total Pop.
1921 (Census)	54,300
1922 (Estimated by Registrar General) ..	54,750
1923 " " " " ..	55,200
1924 " " " " ..	56,230
1925 " " " " ..	57,080

The estimated populations are based on the 1921 Census after allowance for natural increase of population by excess of births over deaths and for migration as indicated by the Parliamentary Register, etc.

NATURAL INCREASE OF POPULATION, 1921-1925.

Year.	Number.
1921	623
1922	574
1923	585
1924	421
1925	450

For calculating the birth-rate the Registrar-General gives the population as 57,080, and for death rate as 48,680. These figures have been used throughout the Report for calculating the rates in the Borough.

BIRTHS.

During the year 1,059 births were registered, 499 being boys and 452 girls. After correction for inward and outward transfers this figure becomes 951, equal to a **Birth Rate for the year of 16.6 per 1,000** of the population.

WARD DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTHS.

Ward.			Births.	Birth rate.
Brompton	..	..	88	10.9
Medway	..	..	145	18.2
East	..	..	194	20.0
North ..	..	..	272	23.0
South	..	..	160	15.6
West	..	..	98	15.5
Total			957 (R.G. 951)	

The Registrar General gives the illegitimate births as 26 or 2.7 per cent. of the total.

The following table shows the number of illegitimate births during the years 1922-1925 :

Year.			Number of Illegitimate Births.	Illegitimate Birth-rate per 100 Births.
1922	..	..	32	2.8
1923	..	..	24	2.2
1924	..	..	23	2.5
1925	..	..	26	2.7

The accompanying diagram demonstrates the course of the birth rate since 1905 in Gillingham and in England and Wales.

DEATHS.

The net number of deaths in Gillingham, after deducting deaths of those who were not " residents " and adding deaths of " residents " whose deaths occurred outside the Borough, chiefly in the Medway Infirmary and in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, is 501.

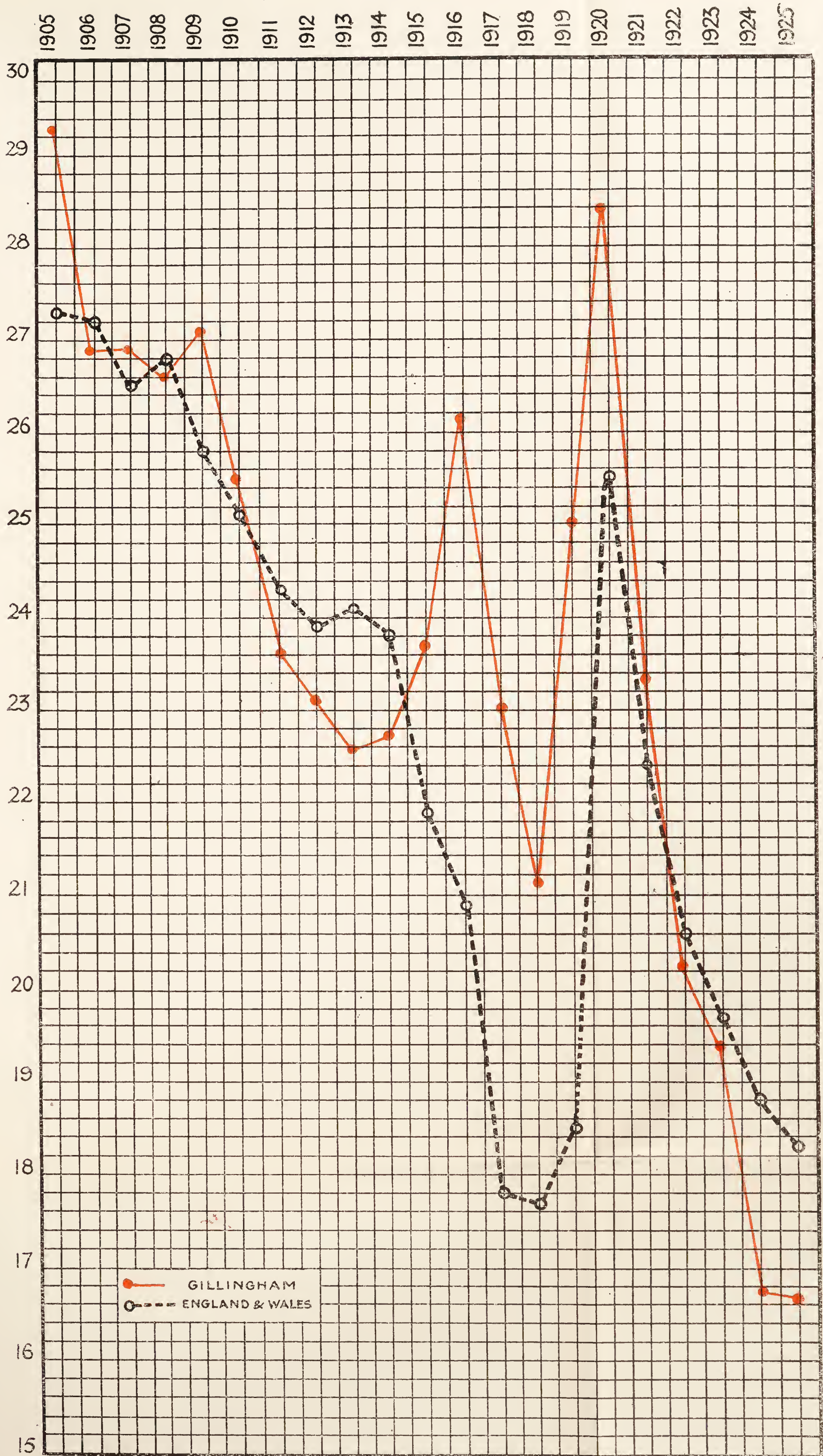
This number represents a **Death Rate of 10.2 per 1,000** of the population.

42.9 % occurred in the age group 65 and over and 24.9 per cent. in the 45-65 group, and 9.7 per cent. under 1 year.

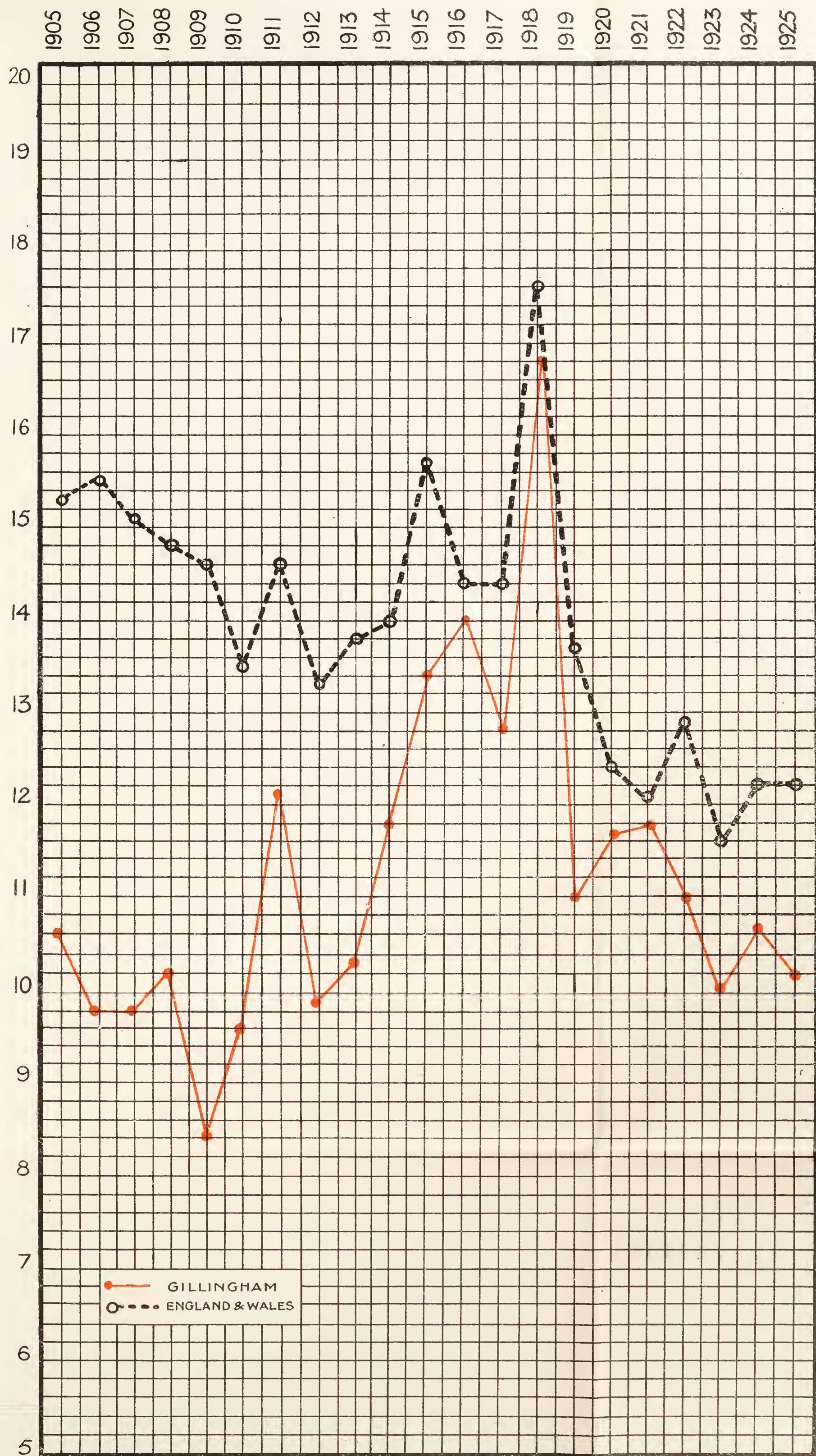
The number of deaths in the Institutions named was :

			Number of Deaths.	
Medway Infirmary	..	..	70	} 121 or 24%
St. Bart's. Hospital, Rochester	..	..	44	
Gillingham Isolation Hospital	..	..	1	
County Mental Hospital	..	..	6	

The following Diagrams and Tables are self-explanatory :



— BIRTH RATE 1905-1925 —



— CRUDE DEATH RATE 1905-1925 —

BOROUGH OF GILLINGHAM.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1925 and previous years.

YEAR.	Popula- tion estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGIS- TERED IN THE DISTRICT.	TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.			of Non- Residents registered in the District.	of Resi- dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.	
			Number.	Rate.				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.		
											Number.	Rate.
1915	45058	1080	1069	23.7	611	17	23	101	95.0	605	13.4
1916	45058	1213	1213	26.9	625	23	30	87	71.7	632	14.0
1917	45646	1052	1052	23.0	575	21	33	86	81.7	587	12.8
1918	43154	1037	1037	21.4	715	21	32	66	63.6	726	16.8
1919	47914	1135	1135	25.0	531	14	15	70	61.5	532	11.0
1920	45233	1483	1483	28.4	520	11	22	70	47.2	531	11.7
1921 Census ..	54038	—	1260	23.3	637	56	11	82	65.0	581	11.8
1922	{ a54750 b48630	1197	1109	20.2	467	47.	118	70	61.0	538	11.0
1923	{ a55200 b47620	1118	1072	19.4	405	46	126	52	48.5	485	10.1
1924	{ a56230 b48130	1014	942	16.7	414	40	145	49	52.0	519	10.8
1925	{ a57080 b48680	1059	951	16.6	395	37	141	†49	51.5	†501	10.2

a Registrar-General's Estimate for calculating Birth-rate.

b Registrar-General's Estimate for calculating Death-rate.

† Figure given by Registrar-General.

Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.		
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Causes of Death certified by Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.	
England and Wales ..	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	92.1	6.9	1.0	
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London ..	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79	92.1	7.3	0.6	
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000). ..	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74	93.0	5.9	1.1	
London ..	18.0	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.23	0.46	10.6	67	91.1	8.9	0.0	
Gillingham ..	16.6	10.2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.04	0.22	0.32	5.2	49	90.6	7.7	1.7	

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The subjoined table is provided by the Registrar General :—

Causes of Death amongst Civilians in Gillingham Municipal Borough, 1925.

CAUSE OF DEATH.							M.	F.
ALL CAUSES							250	251
1.	Enteric Fever..	..	..	..	..	..		
2.	Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..		
3.	Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..		
4.	Scarlet Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..		
5.	Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
6.	Diphtheria ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
7.	Influenza ..	..	..	..	..	..	3	8
8.	Encephalitis lethargica ..	..	..	..	..	..		
9.	Meningococcal meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..		
10.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	..	..	..	..	..	16	15
11.	Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2
12.	Cancer, malignant disease ..	..	..	..	..	..	31	30
13.	Rheumatic Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
14.	Diabetes ..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3
15.	Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc. ..	..	..	..	..	..	8	13
16.	Heart disease ..	..	..	..	..	..	26	41
17.	Arterio-sclerosis ..	..	..	..	..	..	10	7
18.	Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	15	22
19.	Pneumonia (all forms) ..	..	..	..	..	..	17	11
20.	Other Respiratory Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	7	4
21.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ..	..	..	..	..	..	6	2
22.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1
23.	Appendicitis and Typhlitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
24.	Cirrhosis of Liver ..	..	..	..	..	..	3	
25.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	4	2
26.	Puerperal sepsis ..	..	..	..	..	..		1
27.	Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and parturition ..	..	..	..	..	..		2
28.	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth ..	..	..	..	..	..	15	12
29.	Suicide ..	..	..	..	..	..	4	4
30.	Other deaths from violence ..	..	..	..	..	..	4	4
31.	Other defined diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	67	60
32.	Causes ill-defined or unknown ..	..	..	..	..	..		2
Special Causes (included above) :								
	Poliomyelitis ..	..	..	..	..	..		
	Polioencephalitis ..	..	..	..	..	..		
Deaths of Infants under one year :								
	Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	27	22
	Illegitimate ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Population :								
	For Birth Rate ..	..	..	..	..	..	57,080	
	For Death Rate ..	..	..	..	..	..	48,680	

CANCER AND MALIGNANT DISEASE.

The number of deaths due to cancer or malignant disease each year since 1918 is shown in the following table :—

Year.	M.	F.	Total.	Death-rate.	Percentage of Total Deaths.
1918			49	1.1	—
1919			50	1.1	—
1920			35	—	—
1921			69	1.4	—
1922			52	1.1	9.7
1923	26	27	53	1.1	10.8
1924	30	28	58	1.2	11.1
1925	31	30	61	1.2	12.1

It is to be observed that during 1925 approximately 12 per cent. of all deaths were caused by cancer, and 7 per cent. by “all forms” of tuberculosis.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

Bronchitis caused 37 deaths, pneumonia (all forms) 28, and other respiratory conditions, 11, a total of 76 as against 98 in 1924 and 62 in 1923. Many of the persons dying of bronchitis were over 70 years of age.

INFLUENZA.

During the months of January and February there was a fairly wide-spread epidemic. Many school children were attacked. The total deaths during the year numbered 11, excluding those succumbing to influenzal pneumonia.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 105 cases of notifiable infectious disease (tuberculosis excluded) were brought to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health. This is the lowest number during the period 1921-1925.

Year.	Infectious Cases Notified.						
1921	..	..	..	..	..	..	331
1922	..	..	..	..	..	..	312
1923	..	...	..	..	..	..	264
1924	..	..	..	..	..	..	129
1925	..	..	..	..	..	..	105

During 1924 and 1925 the incidence of scarlet fever and diphtheria has been abnormally low—lower than at any time during the last ten years—and accounts for the generally small attack rate of “total notifiable infectious diseases” during these years. In 1925 diphtheria cases numbered 18 compared with 13

GILLINGHAM BOROUGH.

Table showing the seasonal incidence of the different infectious diseases.

		Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	Poliomyelitis.	Puerperal Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Malaria.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.
January ..	..	8	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
February ..	..	5	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
March ..	..	11	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
April ..	..	2	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
May ..	..	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
June ..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
July ..	..	3	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
August ..	..	5	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
September ..	..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
October ..	..	7	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
November ..	..	3	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
December ..	..	7	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals ..	..	56	18	23	—	—	1	2	—	—	5	1

SCARLET FEVER.

Notifications numbered 56 as against 93 and 143 in the two previous years respectively. There were no deaths.

HOME ISOLATION.

The policy was continued of sending to Hospital only patients seriously ill or those housed in such a way that isolation was impossible. 47 per cent. were treated at home and in no instance did a return or a secondary case occur. The Sanitary Inspectors called at regular intervals to satisfy themselves that proper precautions were being taken to prevent the spread of disease.

No return cases arose from patients treated in Hospital.

The Dick test for the discovery of susceptible persons has not been employed and no case has been treated with streptococcal antitoxin.

Table showing notifications, number of deaths, etc., from Scarlet Fever during 1915-1925.

Year.	Population.	Number Notified.	Deaths Registered.	Treated in Hospital.	Percentage Removed to Hospital.	Attack Rate per 1,000 of Population.	Mortality per 1,000.
1915	45058	139	—	92	66	—	—
1916	45058	98	—	67	68	—	—
1917	45646	115	3	89	77	—	.06
1918	46008	178	1	124	69	—	.02
1919	47914	149	1	121	81	—	.02
1920	47914	129	—	86	66	—	—
1921	54038	139	—	108	77	—	—
1922	54750	151	1	118	78	—	.01
1923	47620*	143	1	106	74	3	.02
1924	48130*	93	—	61	65.5	1.9	—
1925	48680*	56	—	30	53.5	1.1	—

* Excluding Non-Civilians.

DIPHTHERIA.

The number notified was 18, compared with 13 in the previous year. These occurred in 14 houses. In one house there were 4 and in another 2 cases. There were 2 deaths. 94 per cent. of the patients were treated in Hospital.

Table showing notifications, cases isolated, number of deaths, etc., from Diphtheria during 1915—1925 :—

Year.	Population.	Number Notified.	Deaths Registered.	Treated in Hospital.	Percentage Removed to Hospital.	Attack Rate per 1,000 of Population.	Mortality per 1,000
1915	45058	94	12	53	56	—	.2
1916	45058	43	3	29	67	—	.06
1917	45646	38	1	26	68	—	.02
1918	46008	35	3	28	80	—	.06
1919	47914	49	3	41	83	—	.06
1920	47914	116	14	85	73	—	.2
1921	54038	159	14	116	72	—	.2
1922	54750	126	9	110	87	—	.16
1923	47620*	88	6	80	90.9	1.8	.12
1924	48130*	13	2	13	100	.27	.04
1925	48680*	18	2	17	94.4	.36	.04

* Excluding Non-Civilians.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is always in stock at the Public Health Department and since the Isolation Hospital closed down, at the Fire Station also. 103,500 units were supplied to medical practitioners during 1925. As a rule, where the diagnosis is clear the medicalman does not give anti-toxin but has the patient removed to Hospital where serum is injected shortly after admission. Where the diagnosis is doubtful serum is sometimes administered whilst the result of the swab is awaited. Three cases notified as Diphtheria proved to be suffering from Tonsillitis. The Schick Test was not made in any instance or immunisation produced by toxin-antitoxin mixture.

CONTACTS OF SCARLET FEVER AND DIPHTHERIA.

These are discovered by the Sanitary Inspectors who enter details on index cards which are then passed on to the School Medical Department. School contacts of hospital cases of Scarlet Fever are excluded for seven days, and of home cases until the patient's room has been disinfected. Diphtheria school contacts are returned to school after seven days if the swabs are negative. If a carrier remains persistently positive a virulence test is performed on a guinea pig.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Notifications numbered two as against three in the previous year. They occurred in the same house and apparently were infected at the same time but the actual source of infection was not traced. They were removed to Hospital and finally made good recoveries after being seriously ill.

SMALL POX.

No cases were notified. Chicken-pox was prevalent and in many instances the Medical Officer of Health was asked by the practitioner in attendance to decide as to whether the disease was severe chicken-pox or small-pox. The prevalence of the latter continues to increase in the North of England where, up to the present, it maintains its mild character. The following figures for England and Wales are instructive :—

Year						Cases of Small Pox Notified.
1918	..	..	..	..	..	63
1919	..	..	..	..	..	311
1920	..	..	..	..	..	280
1921	..	..	..	..	..	336
1922	..	..	..	..	..	973
1923	..	..	..	..	..	2504
1924	..	..	..	..	..	3784

VACCINATION.

I am indebted to Mr. H. E. Stigant for the following figures :—

No. of Births during 1925	..	..	1042
Successful Vaccinations	..	..	638
Declarations of objection	..	..	371
Removals to other Districts	..	..	16
Not found or removed	..	..	6

The percentage of infants successfully vaccinated was therefore 61 compared with 68, and 64 per cent. in the two previous years respectively. These percentages, low as they are, compare favourably with those pertaining in some districts.

ERYSIPELAS.

Twenty-three cases were notified compared with 7 in the previous year. In 19 the face was the part affected. There was one death.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA (Sleeping Sickness).

One case was notified from St. Bartholomew's Hospital, a female aged 30. According to information recently received (April, 1926) the patient made a perfect recovery.

PNEUMONIA, MALARIA, DYSENTERY AND TRENCH FEVER.

These are notifiable under the Regulations of 7th January, 1919.

PNEUMONIA.—Five cases were notified, of which 4 were influenzal pneumonia. Many are not notified as evidenced by the number of deaths occurring during the year, viz., 28.

The Local Authority has not made any arrangements for institutional treatment or home nursing, which probably largely accounts for the incompleteness of notification.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Information of the occurrence of cases of measles, whooping-cough, chicken-pox, and mumps is received from health visitors, school nurses, teachers, parents and attendance officers. Whooping cough was prevalent in the Spring and chicken-pox in the autumn and winter months. There were three deaths from whooping-cough but none from measles.

The following figures do not furnish a complete record as a proportion of cases are not brought to the notice of either the Public Health or the School Medical Department.

<i>No. of Notifications.</i>				1925.	1924.	1923.		
Measles	..	..	..	191	366	97		
Whooping Cough			..	152	40	106		
Chicken Pox	..	..	..	274	115	159		
Mumps	..	..	..	44	No record.	No record.		
<i>Deaths from</i>				1925.	1924.	1923.	1922.	1921.
Measles	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough			3	2	6	2	8	

INFLUENZA.

During 1925 the total number of deaths from influenza and influenzal pneumonia was 15 or .3 per 1,000 of the population.

TUBERCULOSIS. NEW CASES.

During the year 60 cases (70*) of tuberculosis of the lungs were notified and 20 (31*) of surgical tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS OF THE LUNGS.

Notified by Private Practitioners	..	..	34
Notified from Sanatoria and Hospitals	..	..	19
Notified by Tuberculosis Officer	..	..	5
Notified by Ministry of Health	..	..	2
			—
			60
			—

SURGICAL TUBERCULOSIS.

Notified by Private Practitioners	..	..	6
Notified by Hospitals and Sanatoria	..	..	9
Notified by Tuberculosis Officer	..	..	5
			—
			20
			—

The parts of the body affected in the surgical cases were :—

Cervical Glands	..	..	..	..	..	4
Bones and Joints	..	..	..	..	..	7
Peritoneum	..	..	..	..	..	3
Other Forms	..	..	..	..	..	6
						—
						20
						—

The number of notifications has fallen gradually during the last five years, this being most marked as regards lung cases.

	Pulmonary Notifications.				Surgical Tuberculosis Notifications.
1921	..	..	..	58	—
1922	..	..	..	99	23
1923	..	..	..	82	33
1924	..	..	..	70	31
1925	..	..	..	60	20

The Tuberculosis Register is kept in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health as laid down in Circular 549, issued in December, 1924. A pulmonary case is removed from the Register as cured “in which for a period of five years there have been no symptoms of tuberculosis and no signs of tuberculous disease except such as are compatible with a completely healed lesion and sputum, if present, has been freed from tubercle bacilli, and in non-pulmonary cases in which three years have elapsed without any signs or symptoms of active disease.”

* Figures for previous year.

Dr. Roper, Tuberculosis Officer, has given much helpful information with regard to the present condition of many patients. The number remaining on the Register at 31st December, 1925, was :

Pulmonary	..	..	144	} 223
Non-Pulmonary	..	..	79	

The following Table, compiled from local records, gives details with regard to sex, age, etc., of notified new cases and deaths during 1925.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1
5	2	—	4	2	1	—	2	—
10	1	1	4	2	—	—	—	—
15	2	1	1	1	5	4	—	—
20	3	7	1	2	—	—	—	—
25	5	4	—	1	7	10	—	—
35	11	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	6	2	—	—	4	2	—	—
55	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	35	25	10	10	18	17	2	1
	60		20		35		3	

DEATHS. In 1924 according to the Registrar General, there were 36 deaths from tuberculosis, 31 from tuberculosis of the lungs and 5 from surgical tuberculosis. This gives a total death rate for the year of .7 per 1,000 of the population and is the lowest rate on record as far as Gillingham is concerned.

Year.	Deaths.			Death Rates per 1,000 of population.		
	All Forms.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	All Forms.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
1916 ..	73	63	10	1.5	1.3	.2
1917 ..	72	53	19	1.5	1.1	.4
1918 ..	61	54	7	1.25	1.1	.15
1919 ..	59	48	11	1.2	1.0	.2
1920 ..	54	40	14	1.12	.83	.29
1921 ..	61	50	11	1.12	.92	.2
1922 ..	75	66	9	1.5	1.3	.2
1923 ..	59	42	17	1.2	.8	.4
1924 ..	47	35	12	.9	.7	.2
1925 ..	36	31	5	.7	.6	.1

NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

All cases of tuberculosis require to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health as soon as the medical man in attendance becomes aware of the condition. But of 38 deaths (local records) from tuberculosis in 7 no notification was received till after the patient's death.

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths was therefore 18.4 per cent. compared with 23.4 in the previous year. The subjoined table demonstrates that 11 per cent. of all fatal cases of tuberculosis were notified within three months of death.

PERIOD BETWEEN NOTIFICATION AND DEATH.

	1925.	1924.	1923.
Notified within 7 days of death ..	3 (3.7%)	1.4%	
Notified within 1—4 weeks of death	3 (3.7%)	4.2%	
Notified within 1—3 months of death	3 (3.7%)	4.2%	
Total	11.1%	9.8%	13.7%

TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.

The Kent County Council Tuberculosis Dispensary in Nelson Road is open in Tuesdays from 9.30 to 10.30 a.m. and on Fridays from 2 to 3 and 5 to 6 p.m.

Through the courtesy of Dr. Roper, Tuberculosis Officer, I am able to supply details of Gillingham patients.

1925.

Number of New Cases	135
Total Number of Attendances (Old and New) ..	991
Number sent to Institutions	43
Number receiving Tuberculin	0

DIAGNOSIS—New Cases (Excluding Children of School age).

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	35
Surgical Tuberculosis	5
Bronchitis	2
Other Diseases	0
Apparently Healthy	36
Under Observation	2

DIAGNOSIS—New Cases (Children of School age only).

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2
Surgical Tuberculosis	8
Bronchitis	3
Other Diseases	5
Apparently Healthy	31
Under Observation	6

INSTITUTIONS to which Patients were sent during 1925 :

County Sanatorium, Lenham	..	..	..	18
Keycol Hill Sanatorium, Sittingbourne	..	..	..	3
Grosvenor Sanatorium, Kennington	..	..	..	6
Croydon Borough Sanatorium, Cheam	..	..	..	2
Frimley Sanatorium	..	..	..	1
Cranbrook Convalescent Home	..	..	..	4
Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate	..	..	..	4
Mount Vernon Sanatorium	..	..	..	1
St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester	..	..	..	1
Victoria Home, Margate	..	..	..	1
Alexander Hospital, Swanley	..	..	..	1
Papworth Training Colony	..	..	..	1

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

These gives a Local Authority power to compel any person suffering from tuberculosis of the respiratory tract and who is in an infectious state, to discontinue his employment in connection with a dairy which involves the milking of cows, the treatment of milk or the handling of milk vessels. Information of such cases may be obtained through notification of tuberculosis and from the Tuberculosis officer. No action was taken during the year under these Regulations.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925.

Section 62 of this Act gives the Local Authority power to make application to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an order for the removal of a person suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis in an infectious state from premises where proper precautions cannot be taken to prevent the spread of infection or when such precautions are not being taken. No such cases arose during the year.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The Kent County Council Clinic is held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, as follows :—

For men : Tuesday and Thursday, 5.30 to 7 p.m.
 For women : Thursday, 3 to 5 p.m.
 Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dr. Cotman, Medical Officer of the Clinic, has kindly furnished the following figures of Gillingham patients :—

TOTAL CASES RECEIVED DURING 1925					57
(41 Males and 16 Females).					
Diagnosis.					
					Males. Females.
Gonorrhœa	..	..	..	20	10
Syphilis and Gonorrhœa	..	..	..	3	—
Syphilis	..	..	..	17	5
Non-Venereal	..	..	..	1	1
					—
Discharged cured	..	..	..	15	3
Ceased to attend before cure was complete..	..	..	..	1	2
Under treatment or observation, 31st December, 1925	..	..	..	25	11
					—

The total attendances were 1,310 compared with 730 in the previous year.

Number of new cases from Gillingham during the last three years :—

	Gonorrhœa.	Gonorrhœa and Syphilis.	Syphilis.	Total.
1923	.. 27	—	14	41
1924	.. 33	2	16	51
1925	.. 30	3	22	55

During 1925 71 patients attended from Chatham and 50 from Rochester.

There has been no special propaganda for the prevention of venereal disease but notices of warning are exhibited in the public lavatories. These also give information concerning the days and hours when the clinic is held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

1. PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) *General Nursing.* The Gillingham Local Nursing Association has three nurses working in the town. The Association is financed by Voluntary Subscribers and by contributions from patients and Local Societies. The nurses pay approximately 6,000 visits annually.

(b) *Infectious Disease Nursing.* All cases of measles, whooping cough, epidemic diarrhœa and ophthalmia neonatorum are visited by the Health Visitors. A proposal to make arrangements with the Local Nursing Association for the home nursing of seriously ill cases of measles was not accepted by the Council.

2. MIDWIVES.

The number of resident registered midwives is 16, all of whom are certified. Others resident in Chatham also practise in Gillingham. Three of the sixteen are attached to the Royal Naval Maternity Home. They are all under the supervision of the Kent County Council.

The Council does not employ or subsidise any midwives.

3. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

(a) *Maternity and Child Welfare Centre*, United Methodist Chapel, Arden Street, Gillingham. Premises used consist of three rooms: waiting, weighing, consulting, etc. The Council pays a small sum annually to cover cost of gas, light, etc.

Days of attendance are Mondays and Thursdays, at 2.30 p.m.

(b) *School Clinics*, Gardiner Street, Gillingham. Four rooms provided by the Local Authority.

Minor Ailments.—Daily (Fridays excepted), at 9 a.m.

Friday and Tuesday, at 5 p.m.

Dental.—Wednesday at 9.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.

Friday at 9.30 a.m.

(c) Arrangements have been made with the Trustees of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, for the operative treatment of adenoids and tonsils, for refraction examinations, and for the X-ray treatment of ringworm.

(d) *Tuberculosis Dispensary* at Nelson Road, Gillingham. Open Tuesday, 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., and Friday, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.—Provided by Kent County Council.

(e) *Venereal Diseases Clinic* at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester.—Administered by Kent County Council.

4. HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR COUNTY COUNCIL.

(a) General Hospital (St. Bartholomew's, Rochester) with 126 beds. As the population of Gillingham, Chatham and Rochester alone amounts to 129,000 approximately, the number of beds is obviously insufficient for the needs of the locality. Local efforts are now being made to raise a large sum of money to extend the hospital.

(b) Poor Law Infirmary, Chatham, with 400 beds. This includes eight maternity beds. The majority of mothers in the Borough refuse to be confined in any institution connected with the Poor Law.

(c) Royal Naval and Marine Maternity Nursing Home, Barnsole Road, Gillingham, opened in 1922, has 24 beds. The Local Authority does not make any grant towards the expenses of the Home.

(d) Isolation Hospital, Canterbury Street, Gillingham, has approximately 39 beds for the isolation of cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria and enteric fever. Provided by the Local Authority. (Closed 31st December, 1925.)

(e) Smallpox Hospital, Wigmore, Gillingham, with 16 beds. Provided by the Local Authority.

(f) Tuberculosis cases are sent by the County Council to different Sanatoria throughout the county: Lenham Sanatorium, Key Col Hill Sanatorium, Sittingbourne, Grosvenor Sanatorium, Kennington, Church Army Sanatorium, Farnham, Surrey. Non-pulmonary to Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate, Victoria Home, Margate, Cranbrook Convalescent Home, Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone.

There are 36 tuberculosis beds in the Poor Law Infirmary, Chatham.

(g) There is no Children's Hospital in the district, but children's beds are available at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, and at the Poor Law Infirmary, Chatham.

5. INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS, and HOMELESS CHILDREN.

(a) Medway Institution.

(b) Diocesan Home, 10 beds (Chatham).

(c) Salvation Army Rescue Home (16 beds), Chatham.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For non-infectious, accident and emergency cases a 20 H.P. Austin Ambulance is available at the Fire Station, provided by the Local Authority.

(b) For infectious cases, a half-ton Ford Motor Ambulance, also provided by the Local Authority.

METHODS OF DISINFECTION.

After the occurrence of scarlet fever, diphtheria, or enteric fever, the mattress, pillows, etc., are removed for steam disinfection, whilst blankets, sheets, etc., are steeped in a disinfectant solution at home and the room "spring cleaned."

If fumigation is asked for by the occupier a small charge is made, but only three persons made such a request during the year.

The following articles were disinfected at the Isolation Hospital by steam or in the formalin chamber:

Mattresses	..	151	Articles of Clothing	184
Pillows	..	185	Hearth Rugs	.. 50
Bolsters	..	90	Books	.. . 62
Cushions	..	34	Sundries	 62
Carpets	..	12		

CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS.

The Council has no arrangements other than the facilities available at the Medway Institution.

LABORATORY WORK.

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

All specimens are examined free of charge in the Kent County Council Laboratory at Maidstone.

The following examinations were made during the year :

SWABS FOR B. DIPHTHERIÆ :		Number.	Percentage positive.
From Isolation Hospital ..	..	32	50.0
From School Clinic ..	..	13	—
From Private Practitioners ..	..	55	9.0
SPUTA FOR TUBERCLE BACILLUS :			
From Tuberculosis Officer ..	..	66	36.3
From Private Practitioners ..	..	85	23.5
Blood for Widal's Test ..	..	10	70.0
Stools for B. Typhosus ..	..	2	Nil.
Hair for Ringworm Parasite ..	..	22	90.9
Diphtheria Organisms for Virulence		2	Both virulent.

Outfits for taking and forwarding specimens are supplied direct to practitioners by Dr. Greenwood, County M.O.H., Sessions House, Maidstone, and are obtainable at the local Public Health Department any week-day between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 9 to 1).

The following anti-sera can be obtained at the Health Department in Gardiner Street.

Diphtheria antitoxin.

Tetanus antitoxin (Prophylactic)

Antistreptococcus Serum.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is also available at the Fire Station.

103,500 units were supplied to practitioners during the year.

LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS OF FOOD.

MILK.—Fourteen samples of Grade A (Tuberculin-tested) milk were examined during the year for the number of organisms per cubic centimetre and three samples of ungraded milk for the presence of tubercle bacillus. See page 38.

The County Council charges 5s. for each sample of Grade A milk and one guinea for each sample tested for the tubercle bacillus by injection into a guinea-pig.

The examinations are carried out at the County Laboratory, Maidstone.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS. This is performed by the County Analyst.

A sample of custard powder reputed to have caused diarrhoea in a child was tested for irritant poison with negative results.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The number of cases admitted was 53, the lowest recorded for many years.

Year.	Number of Cases admitted.					
1925	..	..	..	..	..	53
1924	..	..	..	..	..	86
1923	..	..	..	..	..	198
1922	..	..	..	..	..	233
1921	..	..	..	..	..	226
1920	..	..	..	..	..	171
1919	..	..	..	..	..	164
1918	..	..	..	..	..	154
1917	..	..	..	..	..	121
1916	..	..	..	..	..	102
1915	..	..	..	..	..	148
1914	..	..	..	..	..	197
1913	..	..	..	..	..	179
1912	..	..	..	..	..	228

ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES.

Disease.	In Hosp. 31st Dec. 1924.	Admis- sions.	Dis- charges.	Deaths.	Remain- ing 31st Dec., 1925.
Scarlet Fever (notified as Scarlet Fever)	7	32	34	—	5
Scarlet Fever (notified as Diphtheria) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (notified as Scarlet Fever) ..	—	1	1	—	—
German Measles (notified as Scarlet Fever)	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (notified as Diphtheria) ..	—	17	10	1	6
Tonsilitis (notified as Diphtheria) ..	—	1	1	—	—
Erythema (notified as Scarlet Fever) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	2	2	—	—
	7	53	48	1	11

Only 2 cases (3.7 per cent.) were notified with an incorrect diagnosis compared with 15 per cent. in the previous year.

The average length of stay in Hospital was :

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	33.5 days.
Diphtheria	..	..	..	33.6 days.
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	39 days.

SCARLET FEVER. The majority of the cases treated were mild in type. There were no deaths.

The following complications occurred in the patients discharged during the year :—

	No.	
Otitis Media	6	} Total number discharged = 34
Adenitis	3	
Rheumatism	1	
Nephritis	1	
Bronchitis	1	
Total	12	

DIPHTHERIA. One death occurred from laryngeal diphtheria. Tracheotomy was performed but the child (aged 5 years) died seven days later ; breathing, even after operation, was difficult, due to the presence of membrane and mucus below the level of the tracheal incision.

ENTERIC FEVER. The two cases admitted were typical clinically, and of a fairly severe type but made a good recovery.

Widal's Test showed that the infection was due to the *Bacillus Typhosus*.

CLOSURE OF THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The negotiations commenced in 1924 were continued in 1925 and finally resulted in an agreement between the Gillingham Corporation and the Joint Hospital Board of St. William's Hospital in Rochester for the treatment of cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria and enteric fever occurring in Gillingham.

The Isolation Hospital was therefore closed down and all patients remaining transferred to St. William's Hospital on 1st January, 1926.

The following are the principal clauses of the agreement :—

1. By an Agreement for a period of thirty years determinable by either party at the end of the first five, ten, or twenty years of the said term on twelve months' notice.

2. Gillingham to pay a sum of £3 15s. per week per patient. Such charge to be reconsidered and if found necessary re-assessed by the Board every three years of the said term, with a minimum payment in each year for one hundred patients for an average period of five weeks per patient—also to pay the cost of removal of patients to the Hospital and their burial where necessary.

3. Gillingham also to pay by half-yearly instalments the sum of £700 per annum for the use of the present Hospital buildings and equipment.

4. The Corporation to pay to the Board the cost of carrying out the following work to meet the present needs of providing for Gillingham patients : The extension of the Observation Wards Block by adding four cubicles, the putting of the Overflow Block in proper order and condition for cases of Enteric Fever, and the improvement of the laundry, at an estimated cost of Two thousand pounds.

5. Should it be found necessary at any time during the continuance of this Agreement to incur further additional capital expenditure in consequence of taking Gillingham patients, such additional expenditure shall be paid by Gillingham, together with all expenses in connection therewith.

6. Gillingham to have the right at any time after the expiration of the first five years of the said term to ask for an enquiry to be held between them and the Board as to the advisability of taking them in as a Constituent Authority.

7. If it is found that the cost of carrying out the work, etc., mentioned in Clause 4 will exceed the sum of Two thousand pounds the Corporation shall be consulted as to such excess and shall agree to the same before additional expenditure is incurred and the said sum of Two thousand pounds or such other expenditure as aforesaid shall be at once paid by the Corporation to the Board.

8. If this Agreement shall be determined by the Board at the end of the first Five years of the said term and such expenditure of Two thousand pounds or more provided for in Clause 4 has been incurred and paid by the Corporation to the Board the Board shall repay to the Corporation the sum of Five hundred pounds at the expiration of the said five years.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE WORK.

By the Notification of Births Acts, 1907 and 1915, all live births and still births over seven months must be notified to the Medical Officer of Health within thirty-six hours. Under the Registrations Act, 1836, all live births must be registered with the Registrar of Births within six weeks.

Year.	No. of Births Registered.	No. of Births Notified.	No. of Births Corrected for inward and outward transfers.
1921	.. 1260	—	1123
1922	.. 1197	1125 (94%)	1109
1923	.. 1118	1087 (97%)	1072
1924	.. 1014	983 (96.9%)	942
1925	.. 1059	1020 (96.3%)	951

It will be noted that the percentage notified remains satisfactorily high, a circumstance whereby complete and early home visiting by the Health Visitors is rendered possible.

Of the 1020 Births notified during 1925 :

Midwives notified	.. ..	78.3%
Medical Practitioners notified	..	21%
Parents notified	.. ..	.5%

321 or 30 per cent. took place in Maternity Homes in the Borough, compared with 30 per cent. and 24 per cent. in the previous two years. 22 still births were notified as against 26 in the previous year.

HOME VISITING. For this purpose the Borough is divided into two districts, each Health Visitor being responsible for her own area. The first visit is, as a rule, made between the tenth and fourteenth days and subsequently at the third, sixth, ninth and twelve months. Thereafter a visit is paid once a year up to five years of age as far as possible. The 1-5 year visits numbered 929, compared with 523 in the previous year. The Health Visitors leave literature and give advice on infant care and management, making special reference to methods of feeding.

During the year an arrangement was come to with the Board of Guardians whereby lists of "boarded out children" are forwarded quarterly to the Public Health Department and also notifications of movements of such children whenever they occur. The results have been gratifying, inasmuch as the Health Visitors, knowing of their whereabouts, have been able to visit these children and give

valuable help to their guardians. The sympathetic co-operation of the Poor Law Authorities has been most helpful to the Public Health Department.

SUMMARY OF WORK OF HEALTH VISITORS.

	1925.	1924.
First Visits to Living Infants ..	893	877
Visits <i>re</i> Still-births	18	16
Revisits under one year	2424	2328
Visits 1—5 years	929	523
Visits <i>re</i> Milk Order	39	25
Visits to expectant mothers ..	31	41
Visits <i>re</i> Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—
Visits <i>re</i> Puerperal Fever	—	1
Visits <i>re</i> Acute Poliomyelitis ..	1	2
Visits <i>re</i> Diarrhœa	24	3
Total	4362	3815

CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

The Centre is open on Monday and Thursday afternoons, but the Medical Officer, who is also Medical Officer of Health, was able to attend on Thursdays only. (Since the closure of Isolation Hospital in January, 1926, he has attended twice weekly.)

WORK AT THE CENTRE.

	1925.	1924.	1923.
Infants on Register for first time	426	393	293
Total Infants on register 31st December, 1925	1382	—	—
Total Attendances	8063	7650	5253
Average attendance per session	79.8	76	52
Percentage of Total Births attending	44.8	41.7	28
Infants referred to Hospital or to Private Practitioners ..	56	20	8
Total No. of expectant Mothers attending	21	30	—

ANTE-NATAL SUPERVISION.

This work is at present incompletely carried out. A few of the mothers are visited by the Health Visitors and 21 were seen by the Medical Officer at the Centre. He was able to give general advice only as time was not available for making examinations but the majority were seeking admission to the Naval Maternity Home, where complete ante-natal examinations are always carried out.

During the year notice was sent to all midwives in the Borough informing them that arrangements had been made for examinations of urine at the Public Health Department, but very little use has been made of the facilities offered.

SUPPLY OF MILK TO NECESSITOUS, EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND INFANTS.

In accordance with Circular 185 of the Ministry, dried milk is supplied *in necessitous cases* to nursing mothers, and to expectant mothers in the last three months of pregnancy and to infants up to twelve months and, in exceptional cases, up to two years. The Medical Officer satisfies himself that "the supply is essential on the grounds of health." The scale of income given in previous reports is used as a test of necessity.

138 households received a total of 2,366 lb. packets of dried milk at a cost of £94 2s. 3d., compared with £102 13s. 8d. in the previous year.

No cases were found where milk was obtained under false pretences.

The following table demonstrates that in 38 per cent. of the cases the father was unemployed.

FREE MILK.

Husband unemployed	..	..	53	38.4%
Husband in work (large family or low wage or both)	..	..	75	54.3%
Husband sick	..	..	6	
Husband disabled (War)	..	..	1	
Husband dead	..	..	3	
Separated from Husband	..	..	—	
			138	

Average rent, 7s. 10d.

METHODS OF INFANT FEEDING

(under 9 months).

	Breast Fed.		Breast and Bottle.		Bottle only.	
	1925.	1924.	1925.	1924.	1925.	1924.
1. At first home visit						
by Health Visitors	86.6%	83.4%	4.7%	5.2%	8.9%	11.5%
2. At first visit to Centre	57%	57%	11.2%	8.4%	31.7%	34.5%

The average age at the first visit to the Centre is $2\frac{1}{2}$ months (Infants over 9 months excluded).

MIDWIVES.

Dr. Greenwood, County Medical Officer of Health, kindly supplied me with the list of midwives who gave notice of their intention to practise in the Borough during the year. Of the 16, 3 are on the staff of the Naval Maternity Home.

MATERNITY HOME.

The Local Authority has not provided a Maternity Home, but the Naval Maternity Home situated in the Borough has 24 beds. Mothers recommended by the Medical Officer of Health are admitted at the reduced fee of £3 3s. or £2 12s. 6d. per week.

The number recommended was 11.

Maternity beds are also available in the Medway Infirmary, but few mothers are willing to go to a Poor Law Institution for their confinement.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were three deaths, one due to puerperal sepsis and two to "other diseases and accidents of pregnancy and parturition," viz. (Placenta Prævia), giving a maternal mortality rate of 3.1 per 1,000 live births registered (corrected figure).

Year.	Maternal Deaths.		Living Births.		Maternal Death rate per 1000 Living Births.
1922	..	..	8	1109	7.2
1923	..	..	1	1072	.9
1924	..	..	4	942	4.2
1925	..	..	3	951	3.1

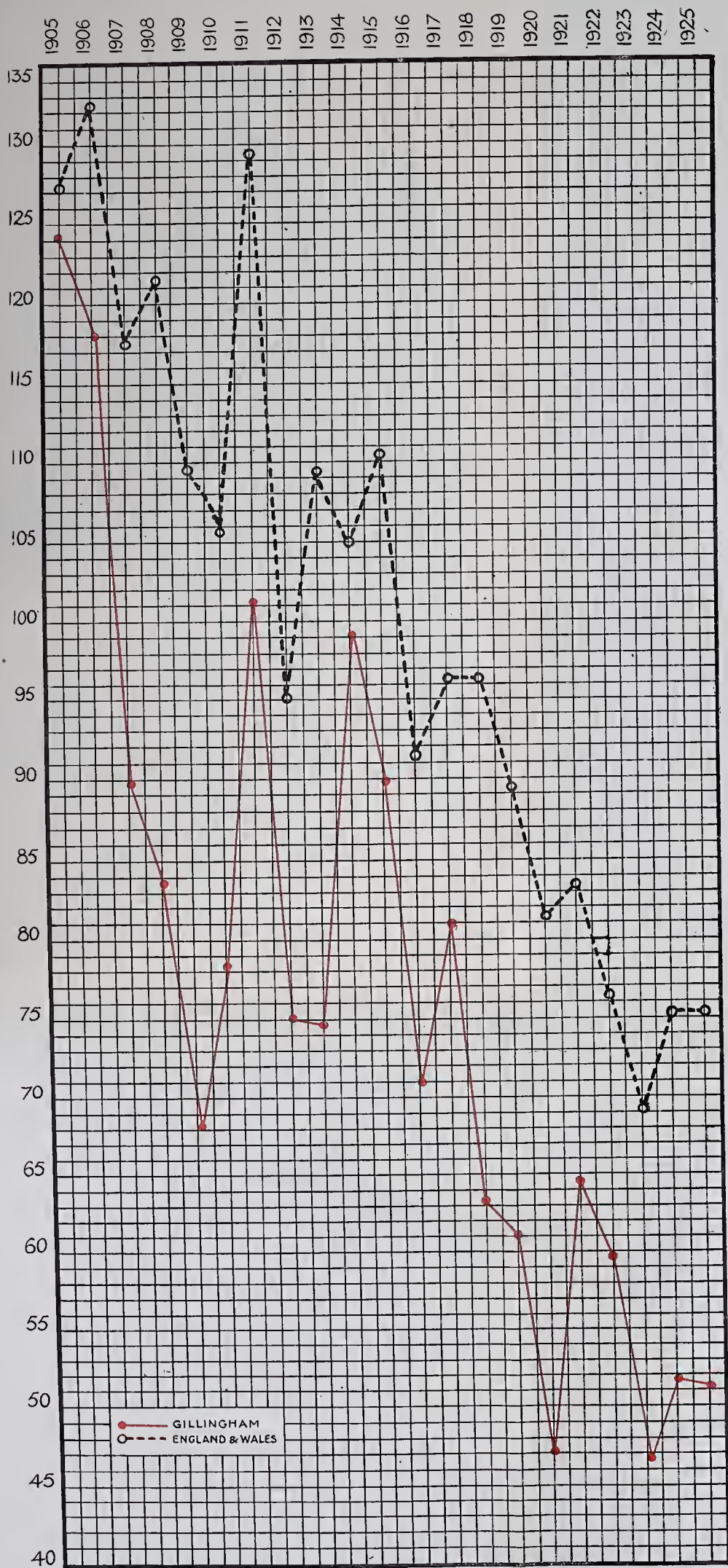
The average for the four years was therefore 3.8 per 1,000 live births. For the whole of England for the period 1911-1920 the rate was 3.95.

Ante-natal supervision, provision of maternity beds for abnormal confinements and an efficient midwifery service are the means by which the number of deaths in child-birth may be reduced. It is to be remembered that the conditions which cause death produce a high damage rate with subsequent ill-health amongst those who do not succumb.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Unlike the Maternal Mortality, the Infant Mortality rate has fallen markedly during the last twenty years. During 1925 the deaths of infants during the first year of life was 49, giving an infantile mortality rate of 51.5. The rate for London was 67 and for England and Wales 75. The comparative figures since 1905 are shown in the accompanying diagram.

As in previous years, approximately 50 per cent. of infants dying under one year succumb during the *first four weeks* of life. The following Table gives in detail the causes of death at the ages indicated :—



— INFANT MORTALITY 1905-1925 —

INFANT MORTALITY.

51.5 per 1,000 Births.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes :	Certified	..	..	17	4	2	4	27	9	3	3	4	46
	Uncertified	..	..	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Small-pox	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken-pox	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Diphtheria and Croup	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous Meningitis	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	..	..	..	3	1	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	5
Laryngitis	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	4	7
Diarrhœa	..	..	..	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Enteritis	..	..	..	—	—	1	1	2	—	1	1	—	4
Gastritis	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation, overlying	..	..	..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Injury at Birth	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	..	..	..	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Premature Birth	..	..	..	4	1	1	1	7	2	—	—	—	9
Atrophy, Debility, & Marasmus	..	..	..	—	1	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	4
Other causes	..	..	..	5	1	—	1	7	2	—	—	—	9
				17	4	2	5	28	9	3	3	4	47*

*Figure given by Registrar General 49.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE, i.e., (DEATH RATE DURING FIRST FOUR WEEKS OF LIFE).

The number of deaths are taken from local records but the number of "births registered" is the figure corrected for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar General.

Year.	Births Registered.	Deaths under 4 weeks.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.
1920	.. 1358	40	29.4
1921	.. 1123	46	40.9
1922	.. 1109	40	36
1923	.. 1072	26	24.2
1924	.. 942	23	24.4
1925	.. 951	28	29.4

The average rate for 1920—24 was 30.9.

It will be noted that although the infantile mortality rate for 1925 was 51.5 as against 52 in the previous year, the neo-natal mortality rate rose from 24.4 to 29.4 per 100 births. The chief causes of death were premature birth and congenital malformations.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Twenty-six of the births, or 2.7 per cent. were illegitimate. The infant mortality of illegitimate children was 115.3 per 1,000 registered, compared with a legitimate mortality rate of 49.7. The following Table shows the death-rate amongst illegitimate and legitimate infants for the past four years.

Year.	Illegitimate Infants.			Legitimate Infants.		
	Births.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Illegitimate Births.	Births.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Legitimate Births.
1922	32	2	62.5	1,077	66	61.2
1923	24	2	83.2	1,048	48	43.4
1924	23	5	217	919	45	47.8
1925	26	3	115.3	925	46	49.7

STILLBIRTHS.

Of the total births notified, viz., 1,020, 22 or 2.1 per cent. were stillborn compared with 26 or 2.6 per cent. in the previous year. It was possible to investigate the probable cause in sixteen cases :—

Prolonged Labour	..	..	..	2
Breech Presentation	..	..	..	2
Placenta Prævia	..	..	..	1
Accidents to Mother	..	..	..	5
Acute Illness of Mother	..	..	..	2
Macerated Foetus	..	..	..	4

ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT.

The Local Authority has no scheme for the treatment of crippling defects in children under five years but any cases detected are advised to attend St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester.

CO-ORDINATION.

When children reach five years of age their Child Welfare cards are automatically transferred to the School Medical Department for attachment to their School Medical Inspection Records. A complete health record is therefore available.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Two cases were notified as against nil in 1924 and 3 in 1923.

1925.

	Cases			Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	Notified.	Treated					
		At Home.	In Hospital.				
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	2	1	3	—	—	—

The services of the Health Visitors are available for irrigation of the eyes whenever medical practitioners desire such assistance.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

Cases notified, etc., during the last five years.

Year.	Cases notified.				Deaths.
1921	..	..	..	1	1
1922	..	..	..	1	3
1923	..	..	..	0	0
1924	..	..	..	1	1
1925	..	..	..	1	1

When this condition occurs in a midwife's case investigations are carried out by the County Inspector of Midwives.

The Local Council supplies antistreptococcal serum and disinfects mattresses, etc., but makes no provision for hospital treatment.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLY.

Table detailing the number of places in the Borough where food is prepared and stored.

	No. in District.	No. of Visits during 1925.	No. of defects found.	No. of defects remedied.
Bakehouses	10	87	10	10
Dairies	23	251	6	6
Cowsheds	5	51	3	3
Milkshops	12	176	12	12
Slaughter-Houses ..	10	2052	17	17
Fried Fish Shops ..	27	141	8	8
Other Food Preparing Places	21	183	5	5

MILK SUPPLY.

The bulk of the supply comes by rail from the Western Counties and by road from surrounding rural districts. There are only five cowsheds in the Borough and the total number of cows is approximately sixteen. Forty-two samples taken by the police for chemical analysis proved genuine. The door to door distribution is partly by sealed bottles and partly by the usual can and ladle. It is uphill work to persuade the retailer to abolish the latter method as he frequently retorts: that "if you saw the jugs of some of my customers you wouldn't worry about my milk can."

On the 31st December, 1925, the milkshops and dairies on the Register numbered 35. Under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, a number of small general shops were removed from the Register being unsuitable for the sale of milk.

427 visits were paid to dairies and milkshops to ensure that proper attention was given to storage of milk, cleansing of vessels, etc.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1923.

The three licences issued for the retail of Grade A (T.T.) milk were renewals, and two were for one dairyman in respect of two premises. None have been given for pasteurised milk but much of the milk sold has actually been "heated."

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF SAMPLES.

Fourteen samples of Grade A milk were taken for the estimation of bacterial content, of which 50 per cent. only reached the required standard of cleanliness. Six of the samples which proved

below standard were, however, taken during the month of May, as the first one in that month was far from satisfactory and the remainder were for the purpose of testing whether the contamination was accidental and temporary. As the contamination continued the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the producer's premises were situated was communicated with and thereafter the required standard of cleanliness was gradually achieved.

The transport of the Grade A milk by rail from Sussex to Gillingham is tedious as it has to go via London. It is despatched between 4 and 5 p.m. and should reach its destination in the early hours of the following morning, but at times it does not arrive till about 11 a.m. Travelling by train for this length of time, especially in warm weather, obviously tends to multiply the number of organisms in the milk. The public demand for this graded milk appears to be reasonably good but the extra charge of 2d. or 3d. a quart militates against its more frequent use, especially in a working-class district.

TUBERCULOUS MILK AND TUBERCULOUS CATTLE.

Four samples of pasteurised (?) milk were examined microscopically and by inoculation into guinea pigs for the tubercle bacillus with negative results.

The Tuberculosis Order of 1925 came into force on 1st September and its provisions are similar to the Order of 1914 with a few amendments. Its main object is to "put out of use for the production of milk, and indirectly to compel the slaughter of any cow which is giving tuberculous milk or is suffering from tuberculosis of the udder or tuberculous emaciation." Compensation is payable by the Local Authority but 75 per cent. is recoverable from the Ministry of Agriculture. During the year one emaciated heifer was slaughtered but post-mortem no evidence of tuberculosis was found. A total of £3 compensation was paid by the Local Authority of which 75 per cent. is recoverable from the Ministry of Agriculture.

As it is well recognised that certain forms of tuberculosis amongst children arise from the drinking of tuberculous milk, the slaughtering of affected animals under this order should go far towards reducing the incidence of such cases. By attacking the infection at its source disease will be prevented—a much more reasonable procedure than erecting hospitals and treating patients with ultra-violet rays, etc., after the disease has established itself.

The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, after being repeatedly postponed, also came into force on 1st September. No action has been taken under it and as yet the new Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders to be made under Section 1 are not in force. These orders will deal with the registration of dairies, of all persons carrying on the trade of dairymen, etc.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are ten bakehouses, including four factory bakehouses.. Two are underground. Eighty-seven inspections were made during the year and ten notices served in relation to general defects or lime-washing.

One underground bakehouse illegally occupied during the year was closed.

MEAT.

(a) Slaughter-houses in Borough are as indicated :

	In 1920.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec., 1925.
Registered	—	—	—
Licensed	10	10	10

There are no public slaughter-houses.

The inspector made 2,052 visits during the year and 17 notices were served respecting uncleanness.

As a rule, the bye-laws *re* slaughter-houses are conformed with.

Notice has been given to the owner of one slaughter-house that unless structural alterations are carried out it is proposed to recommend the Council not to renew the licence at the end of the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

These came into force on 1st April, 1925. They were "designed to secure more adequate inspections of animals slaughtered in this country and improvements in the handling, transport and distribution of meat."

Under the Regulations the Local Authority must receive notice of slaughtering three hours before it commences and for this purpose the subjoined form of notice is utilised.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SLAUGHTER.

BOROUGH OF GILLINGHAM.

To The CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR,
Health Department,

2, Gardiner Street (during Office Hours), or
129, Napier Road (after Office Hours),

GILLINGHAM, KENT.

*Notice must be delivered to the Chief Sanitary Inspector Three Hours
before Slaughtering commences.*

.....hereby give you notice that on

intend to Slaughter Animals for Human Food as follows :

Place of Slaughter
Time of Slaughter
Animals. Cattle
 Sheep
 Swine
 Other Animals

Signed.....

Address

Date.....

Since the Regulations came into operation (April, 1925), the following notices have been received and visits made to slaughter-houses :

Notices of intending Slaughtering	..	..	423
Number of visits to Slaughter Houses	..	..	1679

Of the 423 notices received, 240 or 56.7 per cent. were received after 5 p.m.

Of the 43.3 per cent. received during office hours, 25 per cent. commenced slaughtering at 4 p.m. and continued until 7 or 8 p.m.

Out of the total number of visits made since April, i.e., 1,679, 719, or 42.8 per cent. were made after office hours.

The Regulations have thrown much extra work on the Inspectors but it may be stated that almost all animals slaughtered are now inspected.

Condemned meat is covered with disinfectant and removed to a bone factory without the district.

“ Meat marking ” by inspectors to indicate that it has been examined and found sound is not carried out.

An important section of the Regulations is to the effect that “ the occupier of every shop shall take all such steps as may be reasonably necessary to guard against the contamination of the meat therein by flies and shall cause the meat to be so placed as to prevent mud, filth or other contaminating substance being splashed or blown thereon.”

A copy of this section was delivered to each butcher and retailer of bacon and ham in the Borough, along with a letter of advice on the best methods to protect meat in conformity with the Regulations.

The response was most satisfactory and within a few months every butcher (with one exception) in the town had his meat protected by a glass front. In like manner retailers of bacon had their windows closed down.

Judging from the way in which meat is still grossly exposed in London and other towns, there is probably no district where the meat in butchers' shops is less exposed to contamination than in Gillingham.

The one exception referred to above was the case of a butcher who, although repeatedly warned, persisted in removing the glass shutters from his shop front. As the shop was in a narrow street, observation was made on a very wet day when no difficulty was experienced in finding lumps of mud on his meat. A final warning was thereupon given by the Council, since when there has been no further exposure of meat.

There are no meat stalls in the Town.

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following articles were surrendered (except where marked with an asterisk) and destroyed as being unfit for the food of man, the approximate weight being 4 tons, 12 cwts., 1 qr., 10 lbs., compared with 3 tons, 6 cwts. in 1924.

Carcases of Beef	(Tubercular)	.. ..	8
*Carcase of Beef	(Dropsical and Tubercular)		1
Hind Quarters	(Tubercular)	.. ..	1
Forequarters	.. ..		5
Various Joints	(Bone Taint, etc.)	.. ..	325 lbs.
Carcases of Sheep	(Dropsical)	.. ..	2
Pigs	(Tubercular)	.. ..	5
Veal	(Unfit for Food)	.. ..	258 lbs.
Liver .. ..	.. ..		53 lbs.
Ox Tongue	.. ..		22 lbs.
Fat	.. ..		51 lbs.
Sausage Meat	.. ..		29 lbs.
Plucks (Pigs)	.. ..		4
Pigs Heads	.. ..		9
Bacon	.. ..		55 lbs.
Corned Beef	.. ..		60 lbs.
Brawn	.. ..		18 lbs.
Fish	.. ..		890 lbs.
*Spaghetti	.. ..		72 lbs.
*Honey	.. ..		20 lbs.
*Pork and Beans	.. ..		144 lbs.
*Sardines	.. ..		288 lbs.
*Jam	.. ..		36 lbs.
Apples	.. ..		10 cwts.
Eggs	.. ..		4146

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

These are administered by the County Police.

During 1925, 127 samples were analysed by the County Analyst, and all proved genuine. In 1924, 4.8 per cent. were below standard.

NATURE AND NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN :—

<i>Sample.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Sample.</i>	<i>No.</i>
Cream	4	Scotch Whisky ..	7
New Milk	42	Gin	3
Butter	24	Brandy	1
Margarine	14	Flour	2
Condensed Milk ..	2	Cocoa	3
Lard	6	Marmalade	1
Tea	1	Coffee	1
Jam	2	Ground Rice	1
Irish Whisky ..	7	Imported Apples ..	6

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The information given in this part of the Report has been prepared by your Senior Sanitary Inspector :—

WATER.

Excluding the houses in the rural part of the district, all are supplied by the local private water company, which obtains its water from deep wells in the chalk. The supply is continuous and pure but the water is very hard. Temporary hardness is about 15.8 and the permanent hardness 2 gr. per gallon—a total hardness of about 18 grs. per gallon.

In the Wigmore district the water is soft, its source being in the green sandstone. Outlying houses have wells of their own but a few have no supply apart from the rain water which is collected in underground tanks.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewerage system is on the separate principle, storm water being carried away separately and discharged into the River Medway. The sewage from houses is conveyed to the sewage disposal works on the banks of the Medway, where it is treated chemically with lime and alumino-ferric.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The majority of houses have water closets connected to a water carriage system of sewerage, but in the rural parts of the Borough and also in the low-lying parts near the River there are a number of pail closets, etc., as shown in the following table :—

Privies	..	..	..	..	42
Pail closets	..	..	..	..	50
Earth closets	..	..	..	..	11
Water closets connected to cesspools	..				290
W.C.'s connected to sewers	..	..			11,391 (approx.)

During 1925, 3 privies were converted into W.C.'s connected to sewers.

CESSPOOLS.

Cesspools number..	..	..	261
Constructed during 1925 (in Rural area)			10
Filled in (in Imperial Road)	..	..	46
Emptyings of cesspools	..	..	475

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Number in Borough	..	..	10
Visits by Inspectors during 1925	..		1285

PUBLIC MORTUARY.

Number of bodies recorded during 1925	..	..	22
Number of post-mortem examinations	..	..	6

Of the 22, 4 were suicidal, 7 were sudden deaths due to heart failure, 8 were due to "other causes," and 3 were removed on account of housing difficulties.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are none in the Borough.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector is the responsible official for the administration of this Act.

During the year 49 complaints were received and investigated. The occupiers were advised as to the best methods for ridding their premises of rats.

"Rat Week" was held during the week commencing 2nd November. Notices were published in the local papers warning notices issued to farmers, etc., as to their liability. Large quantities of rat poison were distributed during the week.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1911.

No samples were taken, but seven inspections were made to premises.

SCAVENGING.

Cesspools and privies are emptied by the Local Authority. The contents of the former are pumped by hand directly on to the land or into an "iron tumbler" for removal to the refuse tip. Pail closets and earth closets in the rural districts are emptied by the tenants.

DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD REFUSE.

There are very few ash-pits in the area. According to the bye-laws "every person who shall provide an ash-pit in connection with a building shall cause such ash-pit to consist of one or more movable receptacles . . . constructed of galvanised iron or other suitable impervious material with a properly fitting and rainproof cover, etc." In actual practice, all sorts of unsightly receptacles are used, the majority having no cover of any kind. The percentage of houses having proper sanitary dustbins is small. The Council removes house refuse once weekly, but in the summer an additional collection is desirable as putrefactive matter cannot be burned, the majority of houses having no kitchen fire during the warmer months.

As the Council has no destructor, all refuse is dumped on a tip situated in the lower part of the town near the Medway.

The Borough Surveyor's Department is responsible for the removal of all refuse.

PREMISES, ETC., VISITED DURING 1925.

	No. of Visits.
Milk Shops	251
Dairies	176
Cowsheds	51
Bakehouses	87
Slaughterhouses	2502
Factories	152
Workshops	133
Outworkers under Factory Acts	172
Number of Houses inspected (including Closing Orders) ..	476
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	28
Enquiries <i>re</i> Notified Infectious Diseases	106
Houses (filthy or verminous)	40
Drains tested	287
Inspections under Rat and Mice Destruction Act	49
Refreshment House or Premises where food is prepared ..	324
School Lavatories	237
Visitors under Shops' Act	710
Public Lavatories	1285
Contacts <i>re</i> Plague	Nil.
Contacts <i>re</i> Small Pox	22
Contacts <i>re</i> Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	Nil.
Houses fumigated	59

NUISANCES, ETC.

During the year 315 complaints of nuisances were received and investigated.

DRAINAGE.

Drains repaired (being 39.7 per cent. of drains tested) ..	114
Subsidiary drains cleared by Health Department	1396
Drains cleared by owners	143
Subsidiary drains or sewers cleared by Works Department..	11
Inspection chambers constructed by owners	4
Inspection chambers repaired by owners	9
Inspection covers and frames fitted by Works Department..	7
Vent shafts repaired by Works Department	15

DAMPNESS.

Roofs repaired and made water-tight	203
Eaves, guttering and down water pipes provided or repaired	170
External walls protected from dampness	227
Ventilation provided under floors	6
Forecourts paved with cement concrete	16

GENERAL.

Accumulation of refuse in yards removed	43
Cellar walls cleansed and concrete laid to floors	39
Cooking ranges and coppers repaired	137
Dangerous cellar flaps repaired	27
Sashes, doors, frames and stairs repaired	332
Back additions underpinned or repaired	36
Filthy houses cleansed by tenants	40
Removal of animals	14
Rooms repapered and ceilings distempered	561
Smoke nuisances abated	38
Overcrowding	7

SINKS AND BATHS.

Glazed stoneware sinks fixed	12
Sink waste pipes provided and fixed	67

WATER CLOSETS.

New L.C.C. pans fitted	26
Water closets rebuilt	2
New water closets built in 9in. brickwork	3
Water closets connected to main sewer in place of cesspools..	46
Water closet fittings repaired (Water)	168
Water closets seats, doors, floors, brickwork repaired ..	153
Water closet pans cleansed by tenants	37
Ventilation provided to water closets	17

WATER SUPPLY.

Pipes repaired	117
------------------------	-----

YARDS.

Drained and paved with cement concrete	57
--	----

PRELIMINARY AND STATUTORY NOTICES.

During the year the following Notices have been served :—

Preliminary Notices for the abatement of various nuisances under Section 94 of the Public Health Act, 1875	476
Informal Notices to Butchers <i>re</i> alterations	47
Total	523

Final Notices concerning various nuisances under Section 94 of the Public Health Act, 1875	167
Preliminary Notices to provide a sufficient W.C. to each house under Section 36 Public Health Act, 1875	2
Statutory Notices respecting the removal of manure or other offensive matter under Section 49 Public Health Act, 1875..	47

PRELIMINARY NOTICES SERVED.

1920	493
1921	373
1922	400
1923	592
1924	475
1925	523

STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED (SECTION 94 P.H.A., 1875).

1920 ..	231	(46.8 per cent of Preliminary Notices).
1921 ..	200	(53.6 per cent. „ „
1922 ..	159	(39.7 per cent. „ „
1923 ..	267	(45.1 per cent. „ „
1924 ..	163	(34.9 per cent. „ „
1925 ..	167	(31.9 per cent. „ „

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

The occupier of No. 34, Wood Street, Old Brompton, was summoned for failing to comply with Notice under Section 17, Sub-Section 4 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

Result. Occupier given 21 days in which to leave the premises..

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	152	5	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	133	9	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	76	10	—
Total	361	34	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :*				
Want of cleanliness	7	7	—	—
Want of ventilation	2	2	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	12	12	—	—
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient ..	—	—	—	—
{ unsuitable or ..				
{ defective ..	2	2	—	—
{ not separate for ..				
{ sexes ..	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	1	1	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total	24	24	—	—

* Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

The number of out-workers on the Register is 41 and the number of inspections made during the year was 172. None of the premises were found unwholesome. The principle work undertaken is the making of military and naval underwear.

Premises which are controlled by Bye-laws :—

	Number..				
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	10
Dairies	..	..	..	..	23
Milkshops	..	..	..	..	12
Cowsheds	..	..	..	..	5
Tents and Vans	..	..	..	..	variable
Houses let in lodgings	..	..	..	..	17

HOUSING.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, the following tabular statement is shown :—

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1925.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)) ..	172
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i) By the Local Authority	Nil.
(ii) By other bodies or persons	167

INSPECTION.

(1) *Unfit Dwelling Houses.*

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	476
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	101
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	24

(2) *Remedy of Defects without service of formal notice.*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	294
---	-----

(3) *Action under Statutory Powers.*

(A) Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
---	------

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :					
(a) by owners	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	..				Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close					Nil.
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.					
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied					167
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice					
(a) By owners	..	..	..	..	152
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	..				Nil.
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.					
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders					Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made					Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit					Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made					Nil.
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders					Nil.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the Borough.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

		No.
On Register 31st December, 1925		17
On Register 31st December, 1924		14
Inspections made		51
Notices served		10
Prosecutions		Nil.

INCREASE OF RENT AND MORTGAGE (RESTRICTION) ACT (1920).

One application for certificate was received and granted, with the result that the premises were placed in good repair.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

I.

(1) The shortage of houses persists. It is calculated that approximately an additional 1,000 are necessary for present needs.

(2) *Houses built 1921-1925.*

Year.	By Local Authority.	Privately.	Total.
1921	119	7	126
1922	53	19	72
1923	—	55	55
1924	—	119	119
1925	—	172	172
Total .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	544

(3) During the years 1921-1925 the total population is estimated to have increased by 2,780 or an average of 695 per annum. To overtake this increase and to replace unfit property about 200 new houses are required annually, a number not reached during recent years.

The Corporation has recently (April, 1926) resolved to build an additional 44 houses.

II. OVERCROWDING.

It is difficult to give accurate figures but a very large number of houses are occupied by more than one family. At the 1921 Census nearly 14 per cent. were occupied by two or more families. At the present time about one-third of the Council houses contain two families.

Of 100 houses inspected under the Inspection of Housing Regulations, 10 per cent. were occupied by more than one family. The houses were in Copenhagen Road, Trafalgar Street and King Edward Road.

III. FITNESS OF HOUSES.

The general standard of house property is fairly good, there being very little of the "slum type."

No Closing Orders were issued during the year as it is impossible to eject tenants in the absence of suitable alternative accommodation. At the present time 20 houses have closing orders on them.

The Public Health Act (Section 94) has been used in preference to the Housing Act, 1925, for the remedying of housing defects.

IV. BYELAWS RELATING TO HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

These came into force in January, 1924, and have enabled the Council to take the necessary steps to maintain this type of property in a reasonably sanitary condition.

LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS, AND LOCAL REGULATIONS RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

	Date of Operation or Completion.
Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890	15th April, 1901.
Public Health Amendment Act, 1890 (except Parts IV. and V.)	1st May, 1891.
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 (Parts II., III., V., VI., VII., X., and certain Sections of Part IV).	12th December, 1908.
Notification of Births Act, 1907	26th May, 1914.
Public Health Act, 1925 (Parts II., III., IV., V.) ..	1st January, 1926.

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Building Bye-laws	12th March, 1902.
Tents, Vans, Sheds, and similar structure	26th June, 1902.
For the Good Rule and Government of the Borough of Gillingham (Prevention of Nuisances) ..	4th April, 1905.
Employment of Children	1st April, 1910.
Nuisances	1st April, 1912.
Offensive Trades	27th November, 1912.
Milk Traders (under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885)	1st May, 1914.
Removal of House Refuse	1st April, 1912, and 16th April, 1915.
Ashpits in connection with Buildings	16th April, 1915.
Notice of Intended Slaughtering	18th May, 1915.
Slaughterhouses	27th August, 1919.
Hackney Carriages	16th January, 1920,
Houses let in Lodgings	29th January, 1924.

SHOPS ACTS.

Visits to Shops during 1925	787
Number of Shops on Register, 31st December, 1925 ..	694
Verbal intimations respecting infringements	28

LICENCES.

Licenses were granted for the following :—

Motor Omnibuses	159
Char-a-bancs	61
Taxis	39
Drivers	361
Petroleum	22
Calcium Carbide	4
Slaughterhouses	10
Game	4

The following fees were received respecting the above :—

							£	s.	d.
Motor Omnibuses	..	..	..	..	..	..	39	15	0
Char-a-bancs	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	5	0
Taxis	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	18	0
Drivers	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	1	0
Petroleum	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	6
Carbide	..	..	..	..	..	..		15	0
Game	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
							£82 16 6		

RAINFALL.

As measured at Gillingham Park this amounted to 25.10 inches distributed as shown.

January	..	..	1.12 inches.	July	..	..	2.65 inches.
February	..	..	3.40 „	August	..	..	2.40 „
March	..	..	0.86 „	September	..	..	1.73 „
April	..	..	2.12 „	October	..	..	3.45 „
May	..	..	2.51 „	November	..	..	2.48 „
June	..	..	0.35 „	December	..	..	2.03 „
Total Rainfall, 1924				..	..	..	30.52 inches.
Total Rainfall, 1923				..	..	..	25.1 „
Total Rainfall, 1922				..	..	..	23.48 „

The above figures were kindly supplied by the Borough Surveyor.

